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REVIEW AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONCLUDING DOCUMENT OF THE TWELFTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY: REGIONAL CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES

Regional confidence-building measures

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.1/48/L.6

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

A. Requests contained in the draft resolution

1. Under the terms of operative paragraph 6 of draft resolution A/C.1/48/L.6, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to continue to provide assistance to the Central African States in implementing the programme of work of the Standing Advisory Committee.

B. Relationship of the request to the approved programme of work

2. The above request is related to major programme I, Maintenance of peace and security, disarmament and decolonization, programme 7, Disarmament, of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 as revised. 1/ Related activities are reflected under subprogramme 4, Assistance to developing countries on disarmament issues: regional centres; fellowships, training and advisory services, of subsection 3B, programme of work "Disarmament", of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995. 2/

C. Activities by which the request would be implemented

3. It is recalled that the General Assembly, in its resolution 46/37 B of 6 December 1991, welcomed the initiative taken by the States members of the Economic Community of Central African States with a view to developing

confidence-building measures, disarmament and development in their subregion, by, in particular, the creation of a standing advisory committee on security questions in Central Africa under the auspices of the United Nations. In paragraph 3 of that resolution the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue providing assistance to the Central African States by, in particular, establishing the standing advisory committee on security questions in Central Africa.

4. It is further recalled that, in the oral statement of the Secretariat concerning the responsibilities entrusted to the Secretary-General under draft resolution A/C.1/46/L.6, the First Committee was informed that the Secretary-General would provide assistance in holding the organizational meeting of the standing advisory committee on security questions in Central Africa for five days in early 1992 in Yaounde. It was further indicated that the related requirements were estimated at $90,000 and that the Secretary-General would endeavour to cover these costs from extrabudgetary resources. Therefore, no additional appropriation was requested under section 5 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

5. The ministerial-level organizational meeting of the standing advisory committee was convened by the Secretary-General in July 1992 and financed from the Trust Fund for Global and Regional Disarmament Activities. At that meeting the Committee decided that its offices should be held by rotation for a period of six months. Accordingly, the 1993 meetings were held at Burundi and Gabon, then the Vice-Chairs of the Committee. The cost of the meetings was covered by the United Nations regular budget in the amount of $148,400.

6. Following the procedural decisions which the Committee adopted at its ministerial-level organizational meeting in July 1992, the offices of the Committee continue to be held by rotation for a period of six months. Accordingly, Congo and Angola, currently Vice-Chairs of the Committee, are expected to hold the chairmanship in 1994. Furthermore, in accordance with the Committee's programme of work and its procedures, deliberations would take place at different levels, including meetings of experts (high-level military and civilian officials), ministerial meetings and talks between the heads of State concerned at their annual meetings in the context of the Economic Community of Central African States.

7. The Secretariat understands that the assistance of the Secretary-General sought by the sponsors of the draft resolution would, as in the past, consist of convening two meetings of the Committee in 1994 and that all relevant costs of convening and holding the meetings would have to be borne by the regular budget of the United Nations.

8. The Secretary-General further understands that each meeting would be held in the countries chairing the Committee at the time of the respective meetings. Thus, the first meeting would be convened at Brazzaville, Congo, in early 1994, and the second one would be held at Luanda, Angola, six months later. The duration of each meeting would be five consecutive days and they would comprise two parts. The first part would last three days and would involve the participation of two experts (one civilian and one military) from each State member of the Economic Community of Central African States, a total of 22 participants. The second part of the meeting would be held in the remaining

two days and would involve, in addition to the experts, one additional participant from each State member of the Community at the ministerial level.

9. In endorsing recommendation 4 of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations, 3/ the General Assembly, by its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986 reaffirmed the existing principle that United Nations bodies should meet at their respective established headquarters. In this case, therefore, the meetings should normally have been convened at Addis Ababa, as the regional headquarters of the United Nations. Since the sponsors of the draft resolution intend to have the meetings held at Brazzaville and Luanda, an exception to this principle would be required. In addition, the payment of travel and subsistence costs to governmental representatives at the meetings, as was the case in 1993, would require an exception to the general principle that only members of United Nations organs or subsidiary organs serving in their individual capacities should receive such reimbursements.

D. Modifications required in the approved programme of work for 1994-1995

10. The activities called for by the draft resolution would fall under activities 1 (a) (ii) and 1 (b) of subprogramme 4, "Assistance to developing countries on disarmament issues: regional centres; fellowships, training and advisory services" of subsection 3B, programme of work, "Disarmament", of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995. 2/ Accordingly, no modifications would be required.

E. Additional requirements at full cost

11. The requirements to undertake the activities described in paragraphs 7 and 8 above are estimated as follows.

1. Meeting at Brazzaville (five days, 1994)

		$
(a)	Conference-servicing costs	
	1. Rental of conference room	7 000
	2. Interpretation (E,F)	6 000
	3. Rental of office equipment	1 000
	Subtotal (a)	14 000
(b)	Non-conference-servicing costs	
	1. Travel and daily subsistence allowance for 22 experts for attendance for six days	41 000
	2. Travel and daily subsistence allowance for 11 governmental representatives at the ministerial level for attendance for three days	14 900
	3. Travel and daily subsistence allowance for two staff members from New York - the Secretary of the Committee and one General Service staff from the Centre for Disarmament Affairs - and one staff member from the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament at Lomé	14 300
	Subtotal (b)	70 200
	Total 1 (a) + (b)	84 200

2. Meeting at Luanda (five days, 1994)

		$
(a)	Conference-servicing costs	
	1. Rental of conference room	7 700
	2. Interpretation (E,F)	6 600
	3. Rental of office equipment	1 200
	Subtotal (a)	15 500
(b)	Non-conference-servicing costs	
	1. Travel and daily subsistence allowance for 22 experts for attendance for five days	65 200
	2. Travel and daily subsistence allowance for 11 governmental representatives at the ministerial level for attendance for three days	22 700
	3. Travel and daily subsistence allowance for two staff members from New York - the Secretary of the Committee and one General service staff from the Centre for Disarmament Affairs - and one staff member from the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament at Lomé	19 200
	Subtotal (b)	107 100
	Total 2 (a) + (b)	122 600
	Grand total 1 and 2	206 800

F. Potential for absorption

12. Provision has been made in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 to undertake the activities enumerated in section C above. No additional appropriation would therefore be required.

G. Indication of additional requirements

13. Accordingly, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.1/48/L.6, no additional requirements would arise under the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995. The General Assembly would, however, need to grant an exception to allow the meetings to be held away from established United Nations headquarters sites and to pay for travel and subsistence costs of governmental representatives.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/47/6/Rev.1 and corrigendum), vol. I.

2/ A/48/6 (Sect. 3B).

3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 49 (A/41/49).